

2 Thessalonians 3v10 – Who Cares Anyhow – 09-05-1971

Sermons have been provided by Rev. Ralph Charles Link's Wife, Shirley Link of Butler, PA., and his eldest Son, Ralph Dale Link (R. Dale Link – commonly called Dale Link) of Fenton, Michigan. These sermons have been scanned in and uploaded by Peter-John Parisis (also known as Bryan Edwin Dean of Linden, Michigan) on November 19, 2011 in Swartz Creek, Michigan.

Call to Worship: Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might.

Call to Confession: Come now let us reason together says the Lord; though your sins be like scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool, let us confess together.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Pardon: If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and will cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Amen.

OCT 3RD TO 11TH TRINITY CHURCH
IS ASKED TO CONTRIBUTE GOOD USABLE
CLOTHING FOR THE ~~BILOXI~~ ~~MISS~~
MISSION IN BILOXI MISS. BACK BAY
CONTACT WOMEN.

TRINITY CHARGE--THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
 Ralph C. Link, Pastor
 Christ Church, Duncannon 9:00 A.M.
 Trinity Church, New Bloomfield 10:30 A.M.

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP September 5, 1971

The Organ Prelude

*The Hymn of Praise

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*The Call to Worship

*The Prayer of Confession (Unison)

O thou whose tender mercies are over all
 thy works, humbly and sorrowfully we pray for
 thy forgiveness. For every weakening and de-
 filing thought to which our minds have given
 harbor, for every word spoken hastily or in
 dark passion, for every failure in self-con-
 trol, for every stumbling-block which by deed
 or example we have set in another's way, for
 every lost opportunity to do good, for loiter-
 ing feet and procrastinating will, forgive us
 Lord and grant that as the days go by, thy
 Spirit may more and more rule in our hearts,
 giving us victory over these and all other
 sinful ways. Amen.

*The Kyrie

*The Assurance of Pardon

The Scripture---II Thessalonians 3:1-16

*The Gloria Patri

Pastoral Prayer

Announcements

The Receiving of Tithes and Offerings

*The Doxology

*The Offering Prayer and Lord's Prayer

The Hymn of Meditation

The Sermon---"Who Cares Anyhow?"

The Sermon Prayer

*The Hymn of Response

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*The Benediction

*The Threefold Amen

*The Postlude

*Congregation Stands

CHRIST CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Churches in Duncannon will collect light-
 weight clothing and used blankets for dis-
 tribution overseas through the Church World
 Service clothing appeal on Sept. 14, 1971.
 The drive is sponsored by Duncannon Council
 of Churches. Church World Service ships the
 clothing to disaster victims and war refugees
 in more than thirty countries; the majority
 of these countries are located in tropical
 areas. Additional information may be secured
 by telephoning Betty Smith 834-3432 or Mabel
 Gelbach 834-3317.

Win-A-Chum will meet Sept. 10th at 7:30 P.M.
 in the home of Mary Hepfer.

TRINITY CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome today a new member Mrs. Pearl
 Hubbard. We pray God's blessing upon her.

II Thessalonians 3: 10, "We gave you a rule when we were with you: not to let anyone have any food if he refused to do any work." (Jerusalem Bible)

The Apostle Paul was perhaps the greatest writer of the New Testament. However, some of the things he wrote seem rather harsh and cruel. One of them is found in the Scripture we read this morning. For Paul to state that anyone who does not work should be denied food is rather un-Christian in content and in action. But if we look at the verse more closely we can see that what he is saying is right.

To begin with he is confronted by a group of people who have taken his words quite literally and therefore are merely waiting for them to come to pass. Paul has been telling them about this second coming of Christ and they are merely awaiting his arrival. So to better prepare themselves for this they are merely concentrating and meditating and have put the things of the world away from them and this includes the task of everyday work. But as in all societies must be added a certain group of individuals who are sponges. A group of men and women who act as parasites and feed, or derive their existence from what others have labored and sweat over. So Paul is merely pointing out to them, whichever may be their category, that if they cannot work then they cannot eat. So the ultimatum from him is, to work or starve. No more handouts, and no more charity.

But we do not need to look at the era in which Paul lived and see this because we are all aware of the age in which we live. We all know that our society is rampant with unemployed and a goodly portion of these are people who will not work. We also know that this problem will not improve appreciably, but will worsen in the years to come. I believe a certain portion of the problem is being caused by the large amounts of leisure time we have at our disposal. Our society is not content with working a five day week anymore, it must be four days and there is talk of a three day week. All of this leads to more idle time and there is a good possibility that it is also leading to the thinking that if we can get by with less working days,

why not no working days at all? With the result that we are breeding a society of sponges. Now I am not against more leisure time or less work if the free time will be used constructively. But merely giving people more free time to sit around is going to add to our problems of boredom, mental and nervous breakdowns and so on.

I think all of us can see the point if we look for it. We all look forward to our vacations every year. Yet at the end of them don't we seriously rather long or look forward to returning to our normal tasks? I think if we are honest we will admit to this. The children, although they may argue this point and claim the contrary is true, secretly look forward to returning to school. And so the secret to solving the problems of our society is not to increase the leisure time, but to find constructive uses for it. And the admonition of Paul then, is not just to the people of Thessalonica, but to the Americans of our century as well. Work, or you don't eat.

I think this point was brought home several months ago when the higher courts ruled in favor of the man whose daughter had sought support from him regardless of how she lived. She was attending college in New York and had chosen to live as she chose, to dress as she felt she should and that her father had no strings attached to her. He cut off all support until such time as she began to act as he felt she should. So she took him to court and lost. I think this tells us something of our nation and society. It should be a starting point toward people acting and being more responsible in their actions and lives. This is the attitude that should be taken to those who would flaunt our laws, our morals and our society in general, simply because they feel someone owes them something. No one owes these people anything, and until such time as they can act responsibly they should not be catered to, nor treated as though they are privileged characters. I think it is time we took off the gloves and stopped coddling everyone that wants to act like a two year old.

But the one point that is often overlooked in this is the fact that a certain segment of this group we are talking of is this way because of

the distinct feelings and attitudes shown toward them. I can only show this by using several illustrations.

The September emphasis for our Seminary class this year is a seminar on Human Relations and Change. This is merely a polite term for sensitivity training. Now if you know anything about sensitivity training at all you are aware of the bad experiences that have happened at these sessions throughout the country. In fact just this past week someone released to congress a report on sessions that were supposed to be helpful to employees of government organizations and how they had turned into other than what they should have been. But these sessions we as seminarians are engaged in are to make each of us more sensitive or aware of others around us and their needs. The thing that has been brought out by our intimate association this week in individual groups has been that although you may be around someone for a year you may never know what his problems or troubles are. That he may be feeling a very real and sincere hurt and everyone else may be unaware of it. This is the benefit of this group training if it is done properly. If it isn't done properly it can cause more problems than it solves.

In the book "My Shadow Ran Fast" by William Sands, he gives a very vivid illustration that was brought home to him. William Sands is the new name that William Power Sewell has assumed. He is an ex-convict from San Quentin prison. I recommend this book to you if you have not read it. I was able to read it during my enforced stay in Sioux City Iowa. In the book he tells of his anger and resentment of the world because of the way he was treated by his parents. He was severely punished in San Quentin for his misbehaviour, but it was not the conventional punishment we always think of as being connected with prisons. The Warden William Duffy did not permit brutality of any kind there. So the most severe punishment was to lock a prisoner in a padded cell where there was absolute silence and quiet. He was fed at normal times and had a bed and a toilet but no windows and only the entrance door. So Bill Sands was placed in this room for three days. At the end of this time the warden entered the room. He was anxious for the sound of a human voice

but at the sight of the warden who represented authority, he let out his anger and his hostilities. The warden very quietly listened to him and then asked him if he had learned his lesson. Bills Sands told him that the punishment had done no good and he was still the same. Then he was asked why he acted this way when he had an IQ of 150 and was capable of being something worthwhile. He replied that no one cared. He said that no one gives a damn about me and why should I act differently? Mr. Duffy looked at him for a moment and then he said words that changed the life of this man. He said, "I care Bill." And when he was released from this room and went back to his own cell, he was still the angry man he had been. But he reflected on what the warden had said, and soon he began to see that the warden cared not only about him but all of the men. He said it was something to be in the mess hall and suddenly everyone arose from their seats and began to clap. When it became evident what they were clapping at was that warden Duffy had appeared and he was always greeted this way. He was able to convey to these men that he cared. So with these two illustrations I am trying to say that the fellows in my seminary class have been reaching out and wanting someone to care, just as Bill Sands was reaching out to whoever would listen. And this is the way it is with our lives and especially our vocations or what we do for a living. We want someone to care to give a damn about us. Perhaps we may feel that there is no reward in work or what we are doing. Perhaps we feel that our employers do not appreciate us or could care less. But whatever our feelings we must continue to work not only to feed our families but because it is necessary for our mental well being.

But if we begin to feel the emptiness and the uncaring feeling we need but remember that God cares. He cared enough to reveal himself in the person of Jesus Christ. So although we may feel all alone we never are.

In the church we hire a man to minister to us and to try to be the representative of Christ. The one thing we all expect of him is that he cares. That he feels for us and strives to reach us. This is what you hired me for, and this is the what you expect of me. And if I have never learned anything else it is that this is the one thing I want to do. To care for each

one of you. To help you in whatever way I can. This is my work and this is what I feel I must do. So let me share with you. Let me take your cares and problems and make them my cares and problems. Let me share myself with you.

(Poem "If We Knew", from A Treasured Volume page 92.)

Who cares? God cares and He cared enough to send His Son into the world.

Please, HELP! I'm so sick of my ugly life and I'm so SCARED! - HELP, please? I found one of your Free Papers on the street when I was in the city, and I want so badly to turn on to Jesus, but I don't know how - and I'm home now and in my town, everybody is so stuffy - they don't understand - don't care 'bout no one but themselves - never even heard of the Jesus Movement and Jesus People - don't care about me and just think I'm some sort of a weird nonconformist or something - 'cause I don't want to be a stuffy straight like them. NEVER!

I feel so alone and even if this Jesus could help me - even if I could turn on to Him - nobody still wouldn't understand my way - 'cause they know my ugly life - and I'd still be alone. I'm so scared - I don't know what to do or where to go. Please help me!!

I know you can't help, but if there is anything - Here's my address:

HOLLYWOOD FREE PAPER Beverly
UNDEVELOPED PAPER BY JESUS PEOPLE

MY ANSWER

by Billy Graham



Question—Can you please tell me how to get more out of life? I am a young man and would appreciate any advice you can give me. P.N.

Answer — I'll pass on to you the advice that was given to me many years ago. It is from an old Book called the Bible. "Choose life . . . that thou mayest love the Lord thy God, and that thou mayest obey his voice . . . for he is thy life, and the length of thy days." Deut. 30:19-20.

There is a life-giving force in the world. If you allow habits and attitudes to come into your lives to cut us off from God, the Life-force, life goes sour. That is the reason people are bored, filled with anxiety, and miserable. They are not in tune with God.

Even physicians are advising people to go to church, for they are aware that people need more than pills to find this life-giving force. Carl Jung, the psychiatrist, pioneered in the idea that Faith is essential to mental and physical healing.

Choose life. Make up your mind to live for and with God. Christ said: "I am come that ye might have life and that ye might have it more abundantly."